

United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/005,789	11/08/2001	Jerome T. Hartlaub	11738.00038	2022	
27581	7590 07/18/2006		EXAM	EXAMINER	
MEDTRON	IC, INC. ONIC PARK		HAN, M	HAN, MARK K	
	LIS, MN 55432-9924		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			3767		
			DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006	DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extension of time many be available under the provided on 43 CPR 1-138(). In no event, however, may a reply be alrealy filled in the provided of 37 CPR 1-138(). In no event, however, may a reply be alrealy filled 11 NO period for reply is specified above, the maintained statistics precised will apply and will eaple SIX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Feature to reply which has det or charded period for regive they statistic actions and the provided will apply and will eaple SIX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication, reply received by the CRE date flum these months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any sentence parent than explainment. Set 27 CR 1-78(1). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on <u>07 April 2006</u> . 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1.2 and 4-21 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) 1.2 4-7 and 18-21 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) 1.3 is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1.3 is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) 1.3 is/are allowed. 8) Claim(s) 1.3 is/are allowed. 8) Claim(s) 1.4 and 18-21 is/are rejected. 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filled on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to the striction and/or election requirement. Application from the notequest that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.185(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is require		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Mark K. Han The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. **ASHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. **Basic Side, MolOTHS from the amining date principle of 30 STR 1.136(s). In or event, leavers, may a reply the lamps fined active of the communication of the principle of the communication of the principle of the communication. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is partial, cause the application to communication. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is partial, cause the application of the communication. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is partial, cause the application of the communication. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is partial, cause and palure the mailing date of this communication. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is partial, cause and palure the mailing date of this communication. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is partial palure. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is palure. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is palure. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded period for reply is palure. **Palure to eylow which the ear or exceeded to exceed the palure to exc		10/005,789	HARTLAUB, JEROME T.				
The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address - Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 FR11-13(b). In an event, however, may a reply be timely filled in the form of the time of the provisions of 37 FR11-13(b). In an event, however, may a reply be timely filled in 180 period for reply is specified above, the maintain statutor pariod will apply and will capits of K; (9) MONTH's from the malting date of this communication. Fallurs to reply will his best or deemined period for righy will, by statuto, capite in application (25 Us 0.5, 6, 133). Arr poly received by the Office lister than the mention statutor pariod will apply and will capits (30 K; (9) MONTH's from the malting date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any sent of part than 30 plants. Set 37 GR 1,170(f). Part and the properties of the communication of the mention of the ment	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Entire the Mailing the of the mailing the office of the property of the mailing the office of the property of the mailing the office of the mailing the office of the property of the mailing the office of the property of the property of the mailing the office of the property of the proper							
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Elementor of time may be available under the provisions of 30 FeB 113(b). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed aller SIX (5) MODITIS from the mailing date of this communication. SI 30 FeB 113(b). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed aller SIX (5) MODITIS from the mailing date of this communication (still player) and will expise SIX (6) MODITIS from the mailing date of this communication. Failurs to report within the set or exceeded period for report with yealuris, cause the papilication become BARNODENE (51 U.S. C. § 133). All yrighy received by the Office later than three modified and of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any seamed patent time diplement. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status 1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filed on OT April 2006. 2a) □ This action is FINAL. 2b) □ This action is FINAL. 2b) □ This action is final. 3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) □ Claim(s) 1.2 and 4-21 Is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 8) □ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) □ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) □ accepted or b) □ objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) □ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) □ All b) □ Some * c) □ None of: 1. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Ap	The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address				
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 April 2006</u> . 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the ments is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) <u>1,2 and 4-21</u> is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>8-17</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) <u>1,2 4-7 and 18-21</u> is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) <u>1,2 4-7 and 18-21</u> is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) <u>1,2 4-7 and 18-21</u> is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) <u>1,2 4-7 and 18-21</u> is/are rejected. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on <u>08 November 2001</u> is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some or c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application Form the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing	TE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 6(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim ill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONE	I. ely filed the mailing date of this communication. O (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final. 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1.2 and 4-21 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1.2.4-7 and 18-21 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12 ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * ○ ☐ None of: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 11 ☐ Notice of Praftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 30 ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) ☐ Notice of Information Patent Application (PTO-152)	Status						
4) Claim(s) 1.2 and 4-21 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/03) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	2a) ☐ This action is FINAL . 2b) ☑ This 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowant	action is non-final. ce except for formal matters, pro					
4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1.2.4-7 and 18-21 is/are rejected. 7) □ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) □ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) □ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) □ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) □ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) □ All b) □ Some * c) □ None of: 1. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. □ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) □ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 20 □ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	Disposition of Claims						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on *Os November 2001* is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)	 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7 and 18-21 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 						
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	Application Papers						
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on <u>08 November 2001</u> is/an Applicant may not request that any objection to the o Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correcti	re: a) \square accepted or b) \boxtimes object drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See on is required if the drawing(s) is obj	e 37 CFR 1.85(a). ected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).				
a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	 a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). 						
	3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)	Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P	ate	_			

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07 April 2006 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 8-17 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on 29 August 2003.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the second reservoir of claim 1 and second pump of claim 2 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing

Art Unit: 3767

should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 4. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,643,207 to Rise in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,584,885 to Seckel. Rise discloses an implantable infusion device for delivering a medicament composition to a target site through a catheter having a reservoir and medicament composition. Rise, however, does not disclose that the medicament composition include living cells, a second medicament composition and a second pump. Seckel teaches a medicament composition including a living cells and second medicament composition (col. 7, line 17 through col. 8, line 12). Seckel also

Application/Control Number: 10/005,789 Page 4

Art Unit: 3767

suggests that different medicaments can be delivered through different ports, thereby requiring different reservoirs. See col. 12, lines 25-33. Such delivery would require a second pump. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Rise by including the composition of Seckel and a second pump to provide a therapeutic effect to more than one part of the body. In reference to claims 5 and 6, it is considered to be inherent that such cells will produce an exogenous substance.

5. Claims 7, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rise in view of Seckel, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,738,129 to Medenica.

Rise and Seckel disclose the claimed invention except for a reservoir containing a cell maintainer adaptive to maintain the cells in a dormant state, wherein the cell maintainer comprises a coating on the interior of the reservoir and wherein the cell maintainer comprises vitamin A derivative retinoic acid. Medenica discloses such a composition. See col. 4, line 5 through col. 6, line 18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the cell maintainer of Medenica in the invention of Rise and Seckel since such reservoirs are notoriously well known in the art for allowing cells to maintain a dormant state.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 18-23 have been considered but are most in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Application/Control Number: 10/005,789

Art Unit: 3767

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark K. Han whose telephone number is 571-272-4958. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on 571-272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark K. Han Patent Examiner Art Unit 3767

muhh.

Page 5

mkh July 10, 2006

> KEVIN C. SIRMONS SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Kevin C. Surmons